MARVEL
Merry Christmas
DAREDEVIL
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AUTHORITY
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MATTEL

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HELL'S KITCHEN IS HOT.

THE STREETS SPIT AND SIZZLE WITH ACTION.

NEW YORK CITY OFTEN SEEMS A NETWORK OF TRENCHES, BATTLEGROUNDS AND FORTRESSES, AS IT SCREAMS AND BOOMS LIKE A WAR ZONE.

TONIGHT, THOUGH, THERE IS A CEASE-FIRE, AND A FEW MOMENTS OF PEACE. IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE, AND IF ONE STANDS STILL ONE CAN HEAR THE HUM OF GENEROSITY, OF KIND THOUGHTS, OF HAPPINESS -- THE HUMBLE MUSIC OF LOVE.

HELL'S KITCHEN. STAND SILENT, AND LISTEN TO THE PEACE AND SEE HOW LONG IT LASTS.

SKREEEE!

YEE-HAA!

GIT DOWN, SPIT!

LET'S BUST OUT SOME CHEER, SPREAD SOME JOY, MY MAN!

TIME TO TRASH THE FAMILY UNIT, BABY! HAHAHAHAHA

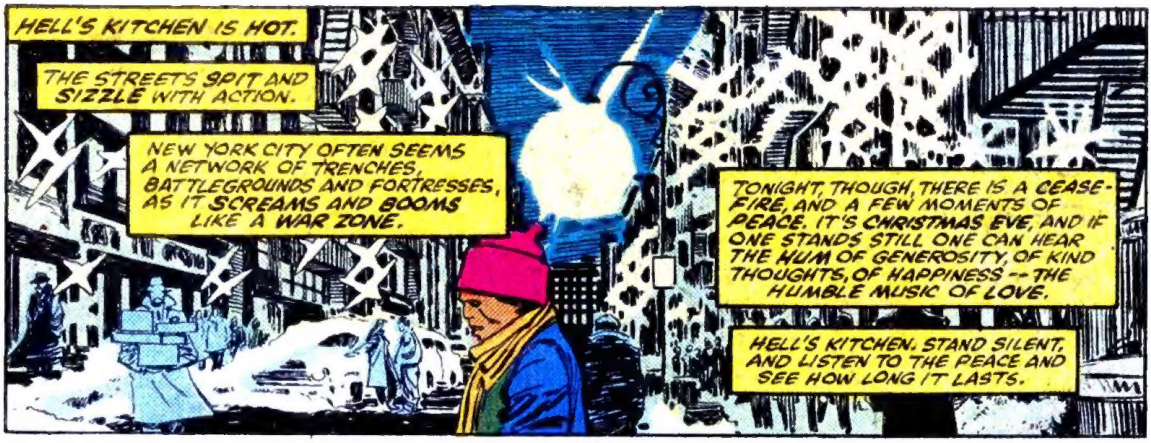
I HEAR WHAT'CHA SAYIN,' MA'MAN!

AN' JET? I LIKE IT. DECK THE HALLS, BABY.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, KINGPIN.

VROOOM!

WILD NEW



by ANN NOCENTI WRITER
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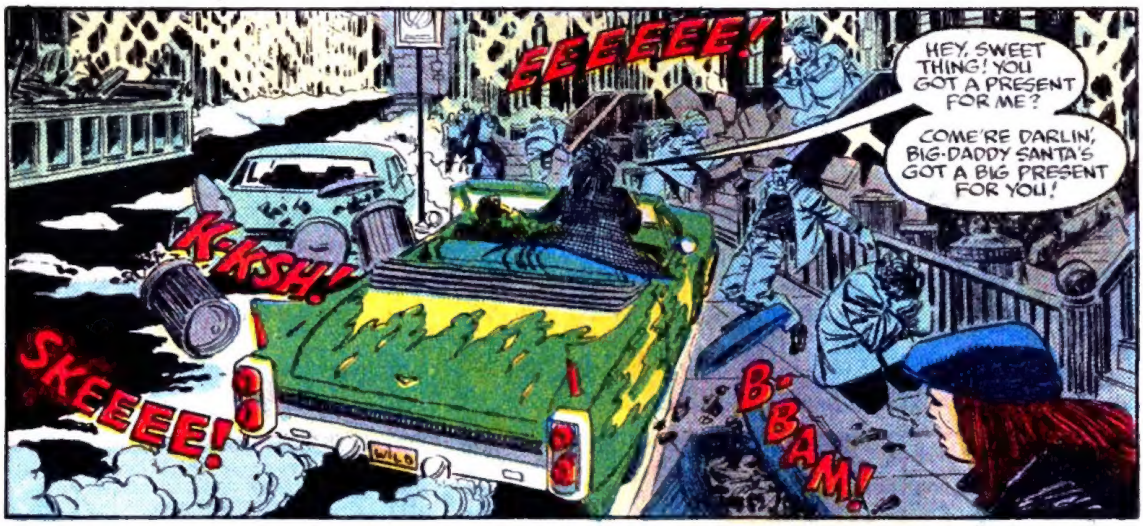
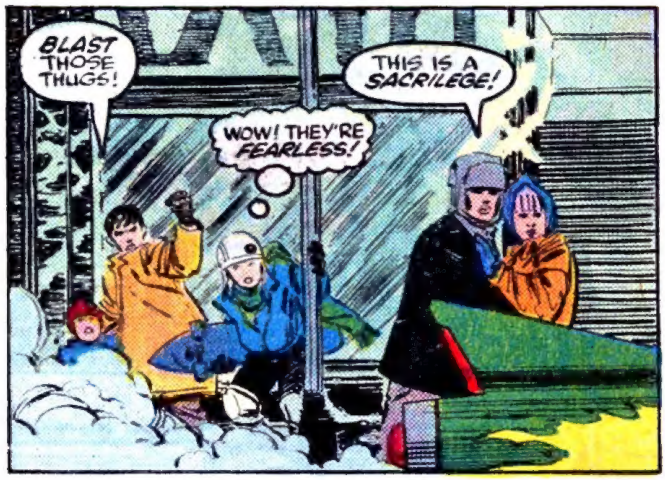
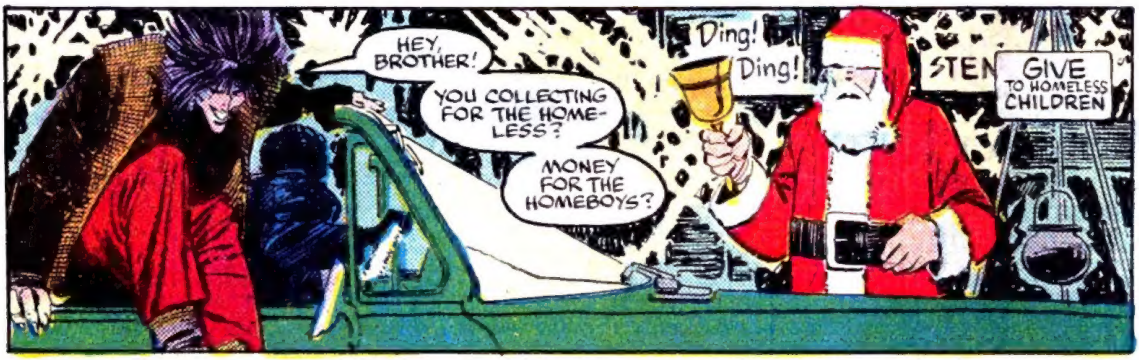
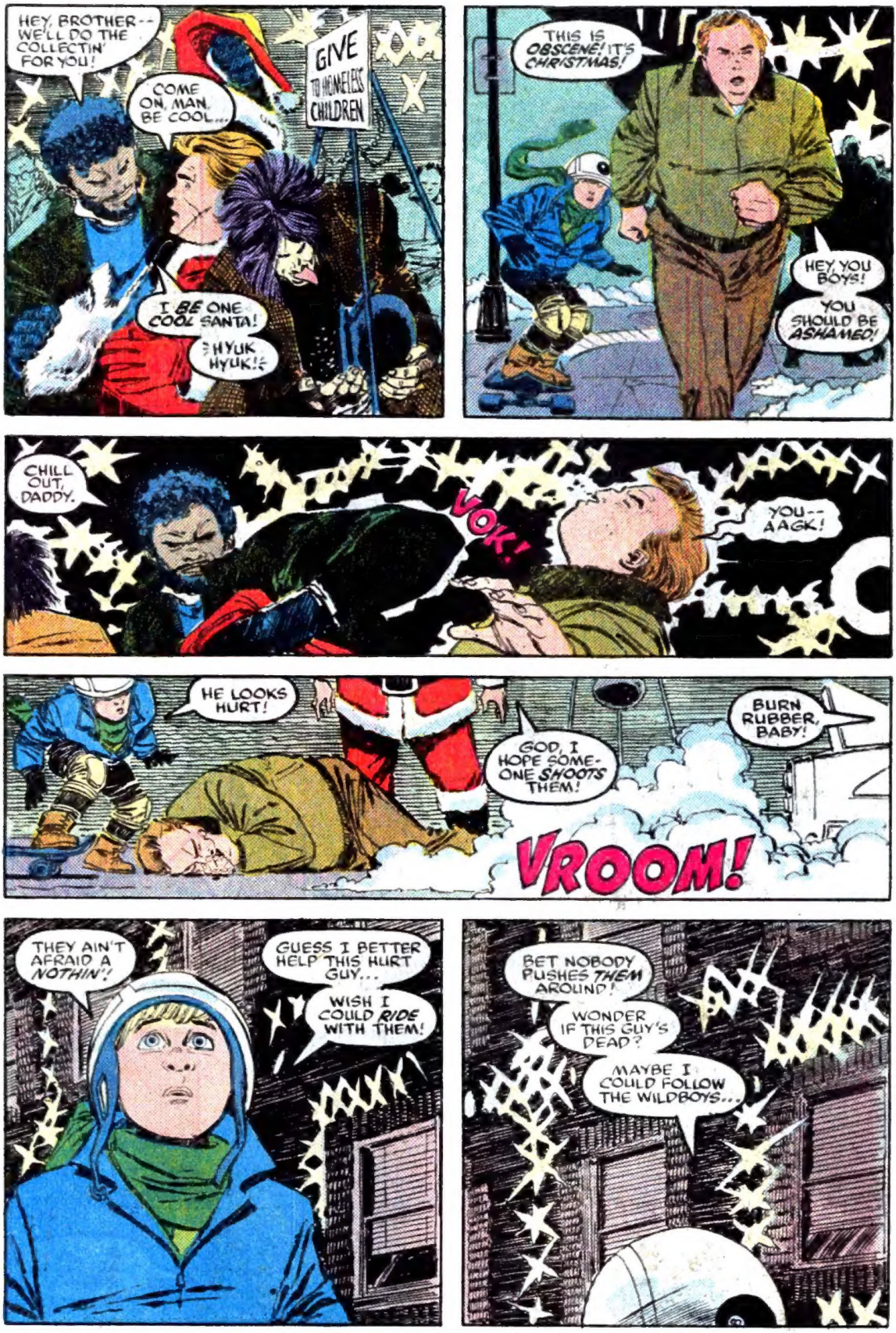

EEEEEEE!
HEY, SWEET THING! YOU GOT A PRESENT FOR ME?
COME'RE DARLIN', BIG-DADDY SANTA'S GOT A BIG PRESENT FOR YOU!
KKKSH!
SKEEEE!
B-BAM!

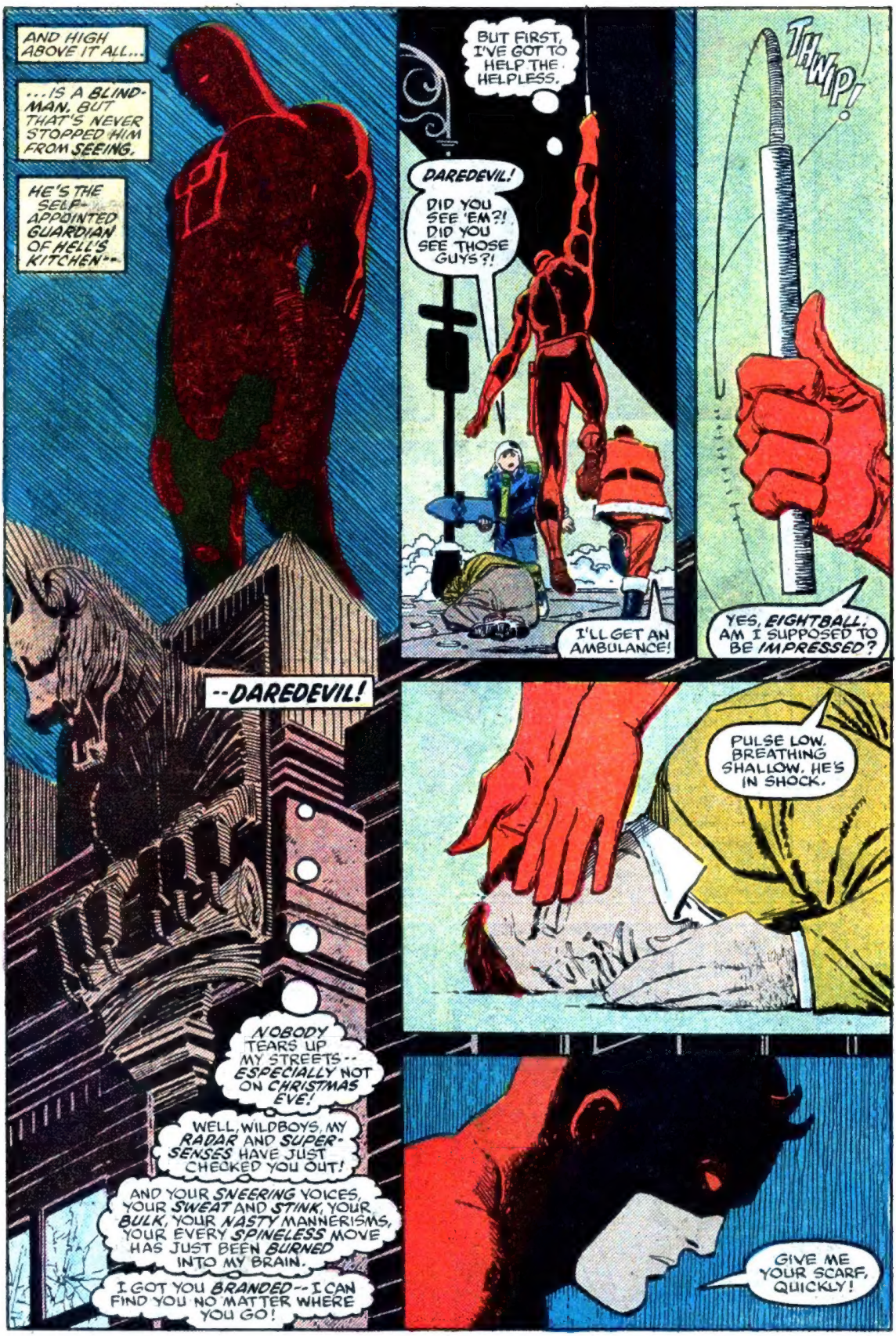
HEY, I LOVE CHRISTMAS, MAN!
HAPPIEST DAY OF THE YEAR!
KILLER, SPIT!
HAHAHAHA-HYUK!-SNORT! HAHAHAHAHAHA!


BLAST THOSE THUGS!
THIS IS A SACRILEGE!
WOW! THEY'RE FEARLESS!

THEY'RE COOL!
WILDBOYS! WISH I COULD RIDE WITH THEM!


HEY, BROTHER!
YOU COLLECTING FOR THE HOME-LESS?
MONEY FOR THE HOMEBOYS?
Ding! Ding!
GIVE TO HOMELESS CHILDREN


HEY, BROTHER-- WE'LL DO THE COLLECTIN' FOR YOU!
COME ON, MAN. BE COOL...
GIVE TO HOMELESS CHILDREN
I BE ONE COOL SANTA!
HYUK HYUK!
THIS IS OBSCENE! IT'S CHRISTMAS!
HEY, YOU BOYS!
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!
CHILL OUT, DADDY.
VOK!
YOU-- AAGK!
HE LOOKS HURT!
GOD, I HOPE SOME-ONE SHOOTS THEM!
BURN RUBBER, BABY!
VROOM!
THEY AIN'T AFRAID A NOTHIN'!
GUESS I BETTER HELP THIS HURT GUY...
WISH I COULD RIDE WITH THEM!
BET NOBODY PUSHES THEM AROUND!
WONDER IF THIS GUY'S DEAD?
MAYBE I COULD FOLLOW THE WILDBOYS...


AND HIGH ABOVE IT ALL...
...IS A BLIND-MAN. BUT THAT'S NEVER STOPPED HIM FROM SEEING.
HE'S THE SELF-APPOINTED GUARDIAN OF HELL'S KITCHEN--
--DAREDEVIL!
BUT FIRST, I'VE GOT TO HELP THE HELPLESS.
DAREDEVIL!
DID YOU SEE 'EM?! DID YOU SEE THOSE GUYS?!
I'LL GET AN AMBULANCE!
THWP!
YES, EIGHTBALL. AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?
PULSE LOW. BREATHING SHALLOW. HE'S IN SHOCK.
NOBODY TEARS UP MY STREETS-- ESPECIALLY NOT ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
WELL, WILDBOYS, MY RADAR AND SUPER-SENSES HAVE JUST CHECKED YOU OUT!
AND YOUR SNEERING VOICES, YOUR SWEAT AND STINK, YOUR BULK, YOUR NASTY MANNERISMS, YOUR EVERY SPINELESS MOVE HAS JUST BEEN BURNED INTO MY BRAIN.
I GOT YOU BRANDED-- I CAN FIND YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO!
GIVE ME YOUR SCARF, QUICKLY!

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THIS WILL HOLD HIS NECK AND HEAD STILL.
I WATCHED IT, DAREDEVIL! THEY WERE FEARLESS!
THEY STOLE PEOPLE'S PRESENTS AND TORE DOWN LIGHTS!
THEY DROVE RIGHT UP ON THE SIDEWALK! WENT THROUGH RED LIGHTS!
THEY SAID THEY WERE TRASHIN' THE FAMILY UNIT!
WHAT'S THAT MEAN, DAREDEVIL?
THEY WERE REALLY WILD, NOTHIN' SCARES THEM!
YOU GONNA GO GET 'EM? CAN I GO?! HUH?
WILDBOYS! THEY'RE THE WILDBOYS!
SO YOU THINK THEY WERE PRETTY COOL, HUH?
WELL... I ...NO...
YOU'D LIKE TO RUN WITH THEM, HUH?
I... JUST MEANT...
I...
HOW'D HE KNOW? HOW'D HE SEE INTO MY HEAD, SEE WHAT I'M THINKIN'?
BEWARE OF DOG
BE SEEING YOU, EIGHTBALL.
YEAH YEAH.
HEY EIGHTBALL! WHATCHA DOIN'?
NOTHIN'.
EIGHT BALL
8

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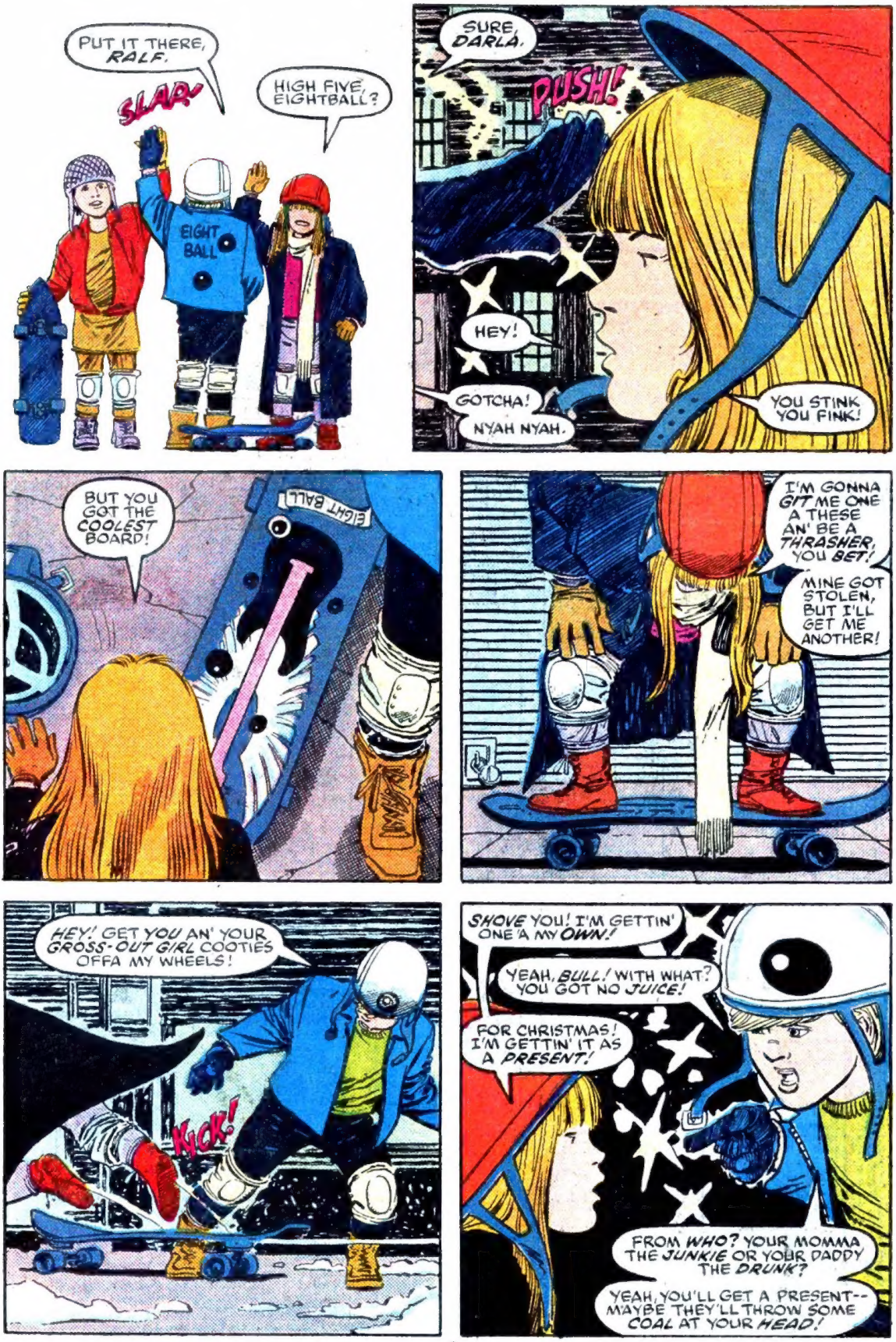
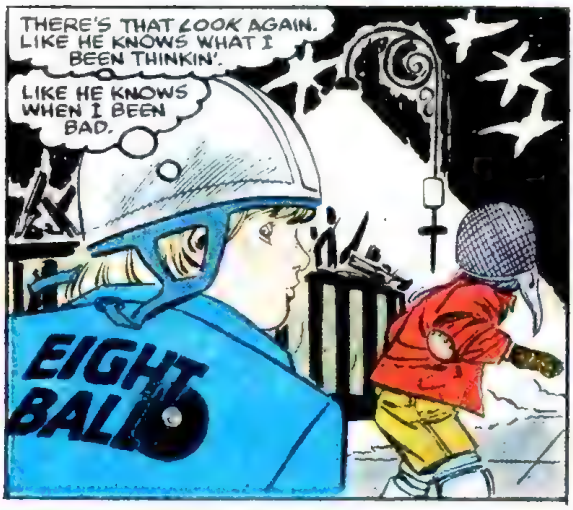

PUT IT THERE, RALF.
SLAP!
HIGH FIVE, EIGHTBALL?
EIGHT BALL
SURE, DARLA.
PUSH!
HEY!
GOTCHA!
NYAH NYAH.
YOU STINK YOU FINK!
BUT YOU GOT THE COOLEST BOARD!
EIGHT BALL
I'M GONNA GIT ME ONE A THESE AN' BE A THRASHER, YOU BET!
MINE GOT STOLEN, BUT I'LL GET ME ANOTHER!
HEY! GET YOU AN' YOUR GROSS-OUT GIRL COOTIES OFFA MY WHEELS!
NICK!
SHOVE YOU! I'M GETTIN' ONE A MY OWN!
YEAH, BULL! WITH WHAT? YOU GOT NO JUICE!
FOR CHRISTMAS! I'M GETTIN' IT AS A PRESENT!
FROM WHO? YOUR MOMMA THE JUNKIE OR YOUR DADDY THE DRUNK?
YEAH, YOU'LL GET A PRESENT-- MAYBE THEY'LL THROW SOME COAL AT YOUR HEAD!

NONE OF US EVER GETS A REAL CHRISTMAS, TREES AN' PRESENTS AN' ALL THAT GUNK--THAT'S THE STUFF'A MOVIES.
MY FAMILY'S GONNA HAVE CHRISTMAS, 'CAUSE I'M GONNA STEAL IT!

YEAH! ME TOO!
SO LONG, FLATFOOT!
YOU BETTER NOT STEAL! EIGHTBALL!

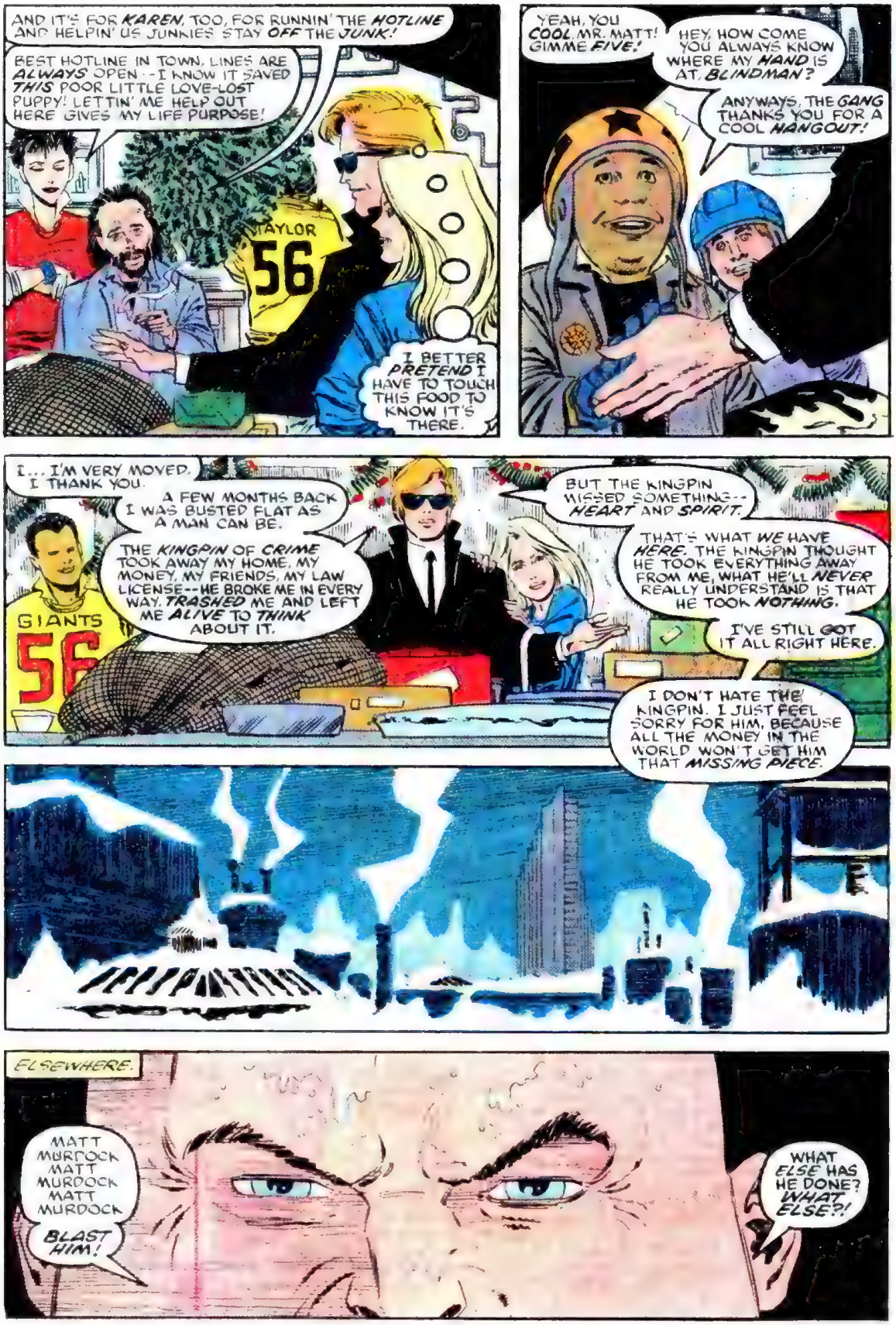
THANKS FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF THOSE CRAZIES, DAREDEVIL.
BUT YOU KNOW, IT BEING CHRISTMAS EVE AN' ALL...
MOST'A THE FORCE HAVE FAMILIES...
SO WE'RE A LITTLE SHORT ON MAN-POWER TONIGHT...
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD...?
NO PROBLEM, OFFICER. CONSIDER THEM HISTORY.
THANKS. WE OWE YOU ONE

THAT'S RIGHT, EIGHTBALL. I'M WATCHING YOU.


THERE'S THAT LOOK AGAIN. LIKE HE KNOWS WHAT I BEEN THINKIN'.
LIKE HE KNOWS WHEN I BEEN BAD.
EIGHT BALL

I DON'T CARE!
HE THINKS I'M SO BAD--I MIGHT AS WELL BE REALLY BAD!

FUNNY, THAT COP JUST ASSUMING I HAVE NO FAMILY.
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT.
THE ABUSED. THE FORLORN. THE LOVELORN.
JUNKIES, HOMELESS KIDS, BUMS.
RUNAWAYS, REBELS, OUTCASTS.
CAN A MAN CALL A COLLECTION LIKE THAT, MOST OF THEM TOTAL STRANGERS--A FAMILY?
YUP. I SURE CAN.
I BETTER CHANGE OUT OF THIS COSTUME--
--AND BRING HOME THE TREE!
THE HOTLINE MAY BE STRUGGLING AND IN DEBT, BUT SOMEHOW, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE THE BEST CHRISTMAS IN TOWN!
HELLO, EVERYONE!
MATT! IT'S BEAUTIFUL! OH, I LOVE THE SMELL OF PINE!
ALL RIGHT!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
TAYLOR
56
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY IS EVERYONE SO QUIET?
WELL MR. MURDOCK--I KNOW YOU CAN'T SEE, BUT THIS HERE TABLE'S HEAPED WITH FOOD AND ALL THE TRIMMIN'S FOR A REAL PROPER FEAST!
WE CHIPPED IN, ALL OF US. 'CAUSE, MAN, WE'RE REAL GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR TAKING ON ALL OUR COURT CASES FOR FREE--LIKE YOU DEFENDIN' MY BOY AGAINST KELCO--I JUST CAN'T EXPRESS ENOUGH THANKS.


AND IT'S FOR KAREN, TOO, FOR RUNNIN' THE HOTLINE AND HELPIN' US JUNKIES STAY OFF THE JUNK!
BEST HOTLINE IN TOWN, LINES ARE ALWAYS OPEN--I KNOW IT SAVED THIS POOR LITTLE LOVE-LOST PUPPY! LETTIN' ME HELP OUT HERE GIVES MY LIFE PURPOSE!
TAYLOR
56
I BETTER PRETEND I HAVE TO TOUCH THIS FOOD TO KNOW IT'S THERE.
YEAH, YOU COOL, MR. MATT! GIMME FIVE!
HEY, HOW COME YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE MY HAND IS AT, BLINDMAN?
ANYWAYS, THE GANG THANKS YOU FOR A COOL HANGOUT!
I... I'M VERY MOVED. I THANK YOU.
A FEW MONTHS BACK I WAS BUSTED FLAT AS A MAN CAN BE.
THE KINGPIN OF CRIME TOOK AWAY MY HOME, MY MONEY, MY FRIENDS, MY LAW LICENSE--HE BROKE ME IN EVERY WAY. TRASHED ME AND LEFT ME ALIVE TO THINK ABOUT IT.
GIANTS
5F
BUT THE KINGPIN MISSED SOMETHING--HEART AND SPIRIT.
THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE HERE. THE KINGPIN THOUGHT HE TOOK EVERYTHING AWAY FROM ME, WHAT HE'LL NEVER REALLY UNDERSTAND IS THAT HE TOOK NOTHING.
I'VE STILL GOT IT ALL RIGHT HERE.
I DON'T HATE THE KINGPIN. I JUST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM, BECAUSE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD WON'T GET HIM THAT MISSING PIECE.
ELSEWHERE.
MATT MURDOCK MATT MURDOCK MATT MURDOCK
BLAST HIM!
WHAT ELSE HAS HE DONE? WHAT ELSE?!

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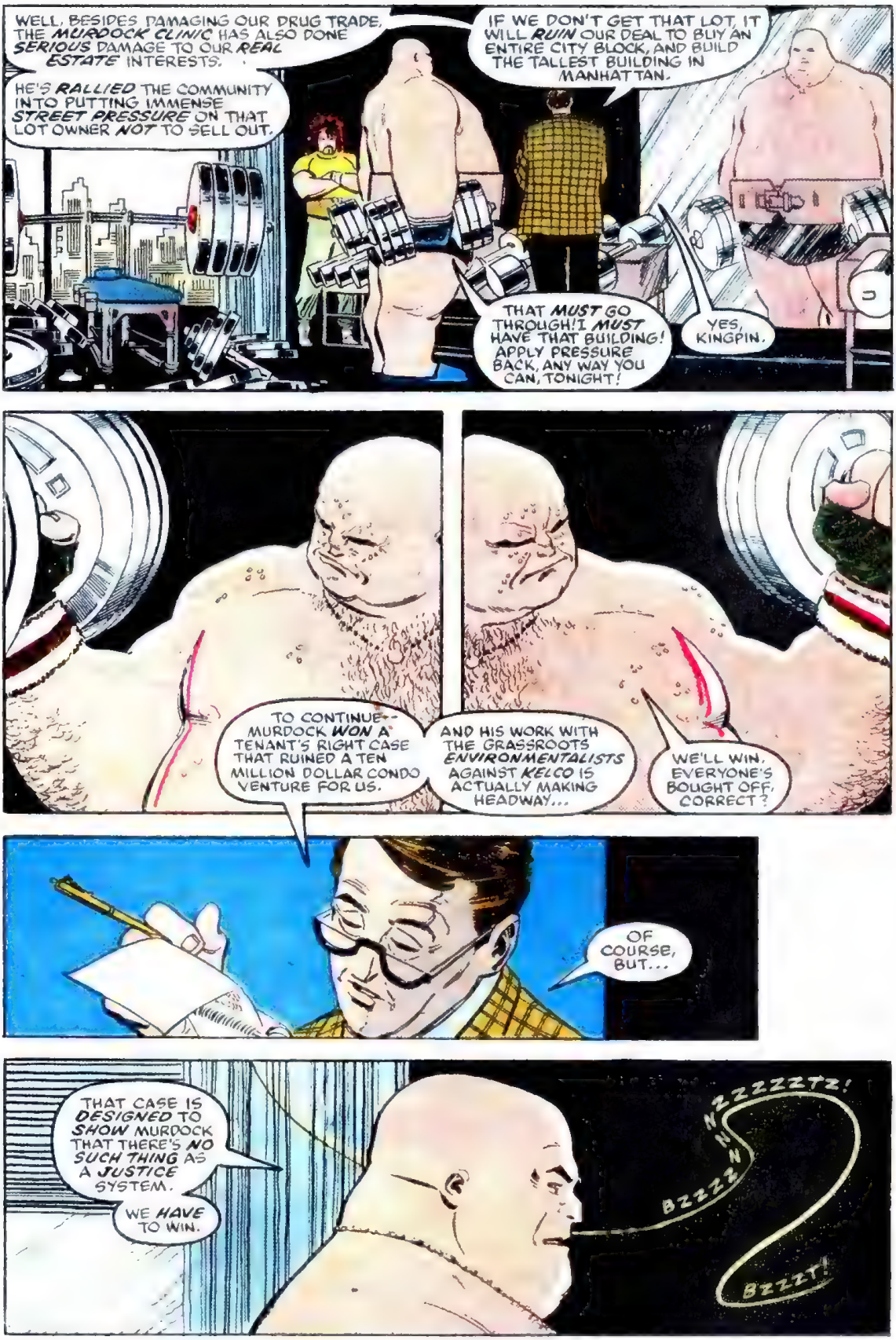


WELL, BESIDES DAMAGING OUR DRUG TRADE, THE *MURDOCK CLINIC* HAS ALSO DONE *SERIOUS* DAMAGE TO OUR *REAL ESTATE* INTERESTS.

HE'S *RALLIED* THE COMMUNITY INTO PUTTING IMMENSE *STREET PRESSURE* ON THAT LOT OWNER *NOT* TO SELL OUT.

IF WE DON'T GET THAT LOT, IT WILL *RUIN* OUR DEAL TO BUY AN ENTIRE CITY BLOCK, AND BUILD THE TALLEST BUILDING IN MANHATTAN.

THAT *MUST* GO THROUGH! I *MUST* HAVE THAT BUILDING! APPLY PRESSURE BACK, ANY WAY YOU CAN, TONIGHT!

YES, KINGPIN.

TO CONTINUE-- MURDOCK *WON* A TENANT'S RIGHT CASE THAT RUINED A TEN MILLION DOLLAR CONDO VENTURE FOR US.

AND HIS WORK WITH THE GRASSROOTS *ENVIRONMENTALISTS* AGAINST *KELCO* IS ACTUALLY MAKING HEADWAY...

WE'LL WIN. EVERYONE'S BOUGHT OFF, CORRECT?

OF COURSE, BUT...

THAT CASE IS *DESIGNED* TO *SHOW* MURDOCK THAT THERE'S *NO SUCH THING* AS A *JUSTICE* SYSTEM.

WE *HAVE* TO WIN.

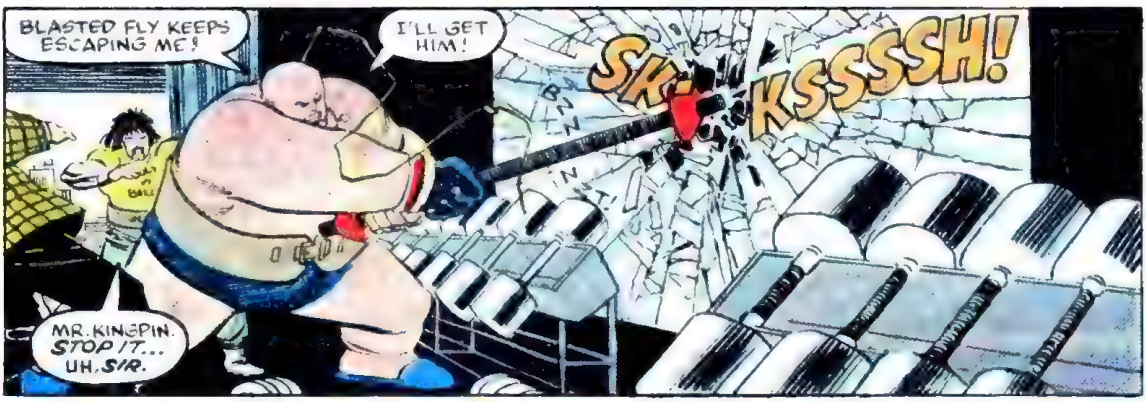
BZZZZZZZZZZTZ!

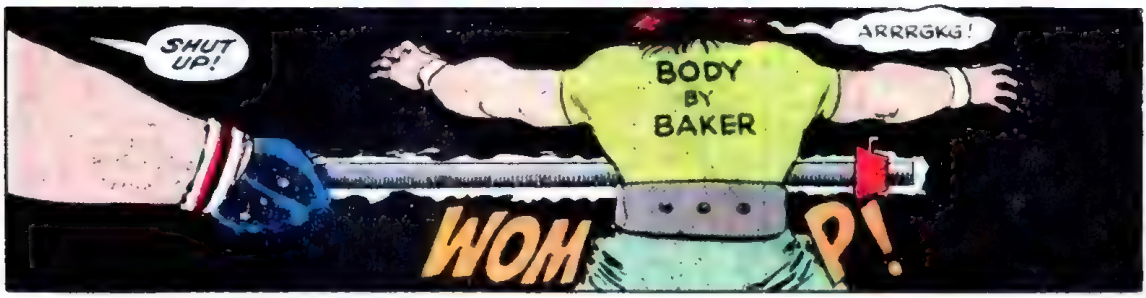
BZZZZT!

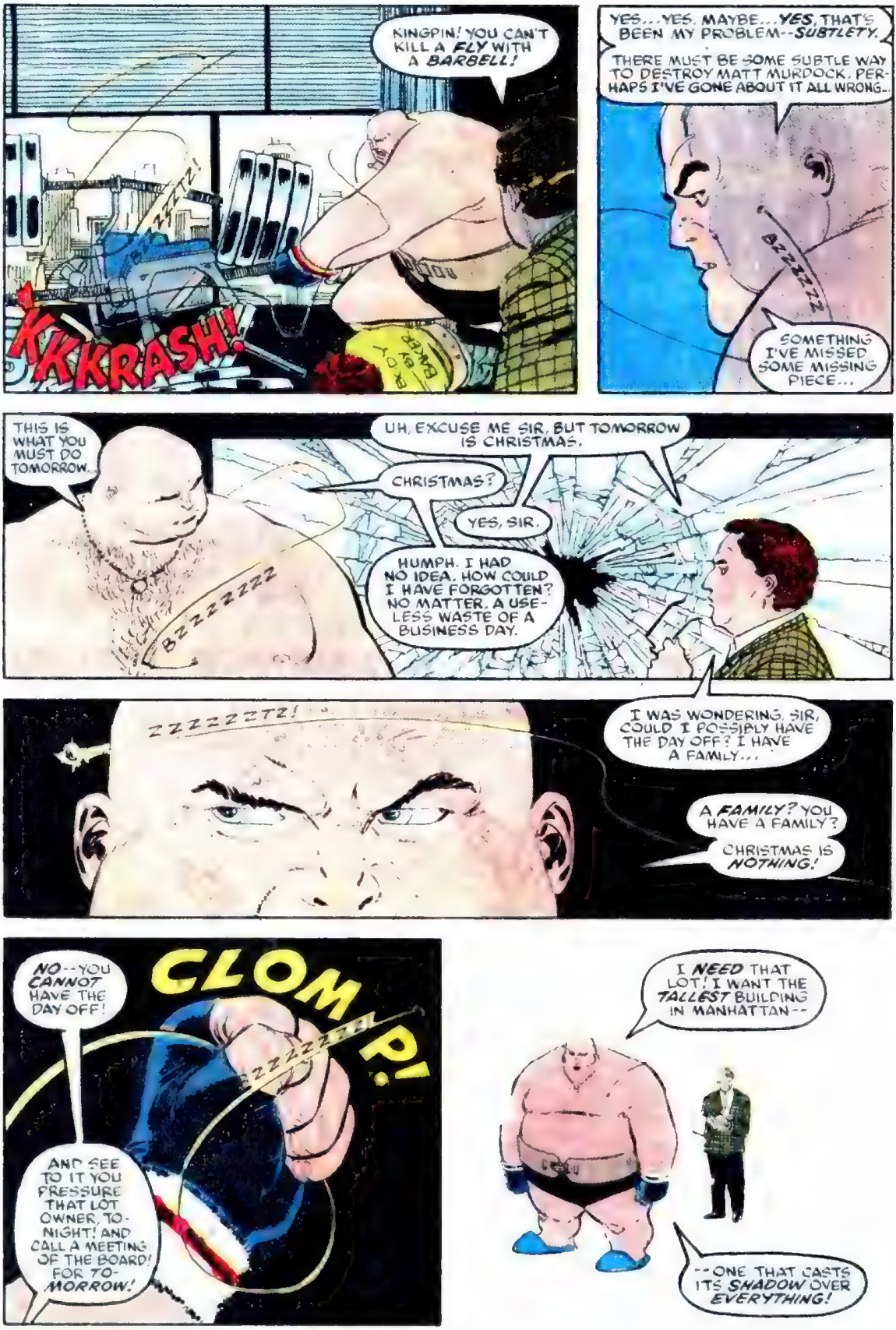
MURDOCK IS BEGINNING TO PLAGUE ME AGAIN.
IT'S IRRITATING THE WAY HE'S SLIPPING IN AND RUINING MY BUSINESSES!
HE MUST BE CRUSHED!
BZ
ZZZZZZ

BLAST THAT FLY!
WOOOOSH!
BZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

UH, SIR... I MUST REMIND YOU, THAT YOU'RE VIOLATING YOUR OWN RULES OF DISTANCE BY HAVING ME REPORT ON THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF CASES.
IF YOU COULD JUST RELAX AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF ALL THESE PETTY ANNOYANCES, YOU'D BE FREE TO THINK OF THE BIGGER PICTURE. IT IS WHAT YOU DO BEST, SIR.
YOU ALREADY CRUSHED MURDOCK, ONCE.
HE'S PROBABLY MISERABLE. LET IT REST!


BLASTED FLY KEEPS ESCAPING ME!
I'LL GET HIM!
SK KSSSSH!
BZZN
MR. KINGPIN. STOP IT... UH, SIR.


SHUT UP!
ARRRGKG!
BODY BY BAKER
WOM P!


KINGPIN! YOU CAN'T KILL A FLY WITH A BARBELL!
KKKRASH!
YES... YES. MAYBE... YES, THAT'S BEEN MY PROBLEM--SUBTLETY.
THERE MUST BE SOME SUBTLE WAY TO DESTROY MATT MURDOCK. PERHAPS I'VE GONE ABOUT IT ALL WRONG..
BZZZZZZ
SOMETHING I'VE MISSED SOME MISSING PIECE...
THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO TOMORROW.
BZZZZZZZ
UH, EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT TOMORROW IS CHRISTMAS.
CHRISTMAS?
YES, SIR.
HUMPH. I HAD NO IDEA. HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN? NO MATTER. A USELESS WASTE OF A BUSINESS DAY.
ZZZZZZZTZ!
I WAS WONDERING, SIR, COULD I POSSIBLY HAVE THE DAY OFF? I HAVE A FAMILY...
A FAMILY? YOU HAVE A FAMILY?
CHRISTMAS IS NOTHING!
NO--YOU CANNOT HAVE THE DAY OFF!
CLOMP!
ZZZZZZZZ
AND SEE TO IT YOU PRESSURE THAT LOT OWNER, TONIGHT! AND CALL A MEETING OF THE BOARD! FOR TOMORROW!
I NEED THAT LOT! I WANT THE TALLEST BUILDING IN MANHATTAN--
--ONE THAT CASTS ITS SHADOW OVER EVERYTHING!

WHIP, DRIBBLE, SPIN, RESCUE, DUCK, HURDLE, BOMBARD, SCREEN, ROLL, DIVE, PASS, EVADE, SPRINT, RAID, DUNK, HURL, LOOP, LEAP, CAPTURE, STAB, DEFEND, SHOOT, INVADE, BLAST, ESCAPE, ATTACK, JUMP, AND SWERVE.

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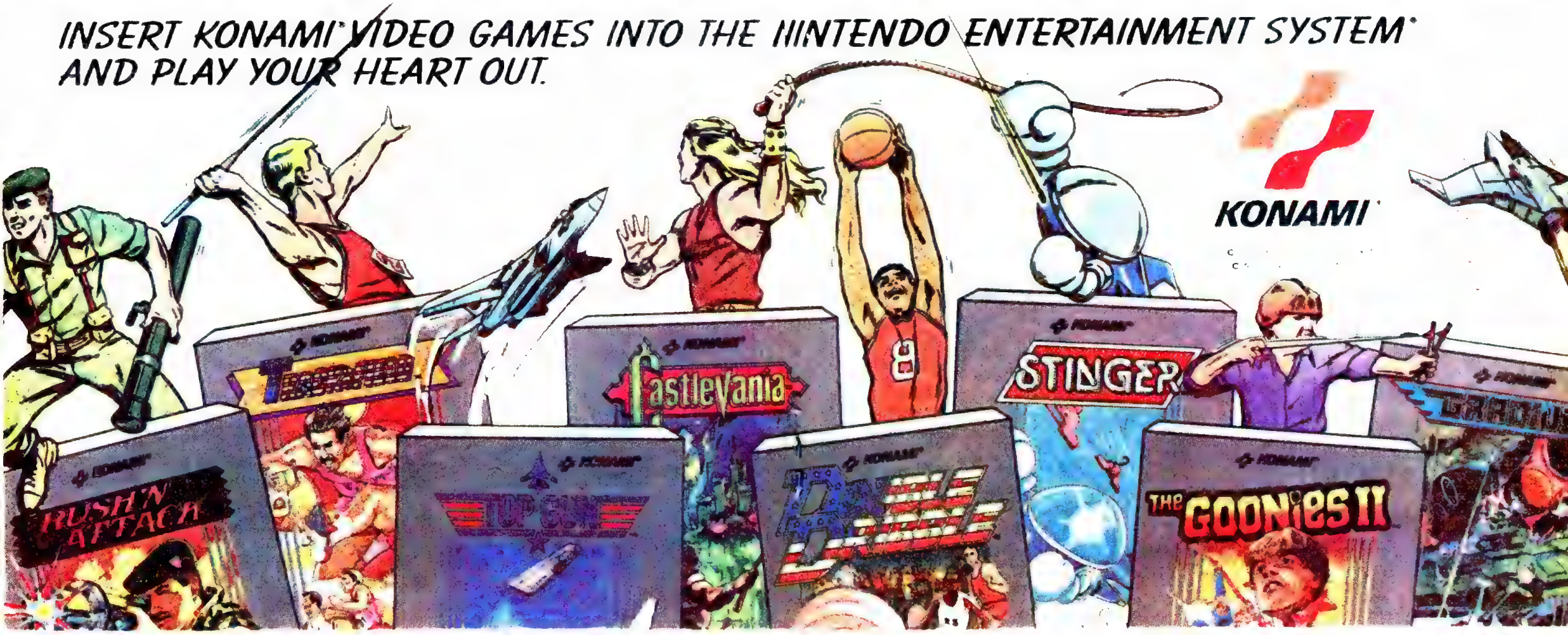
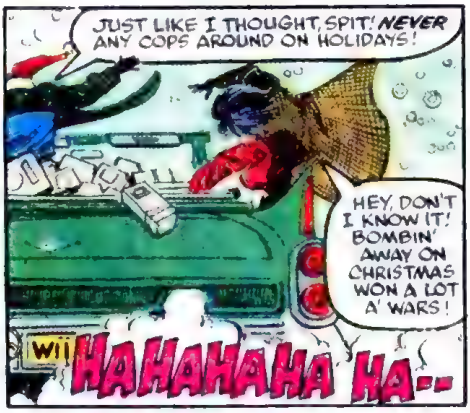
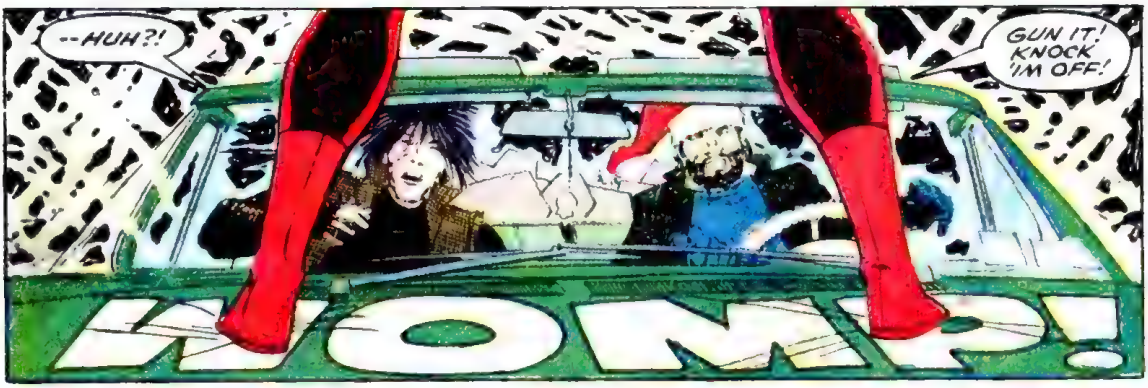
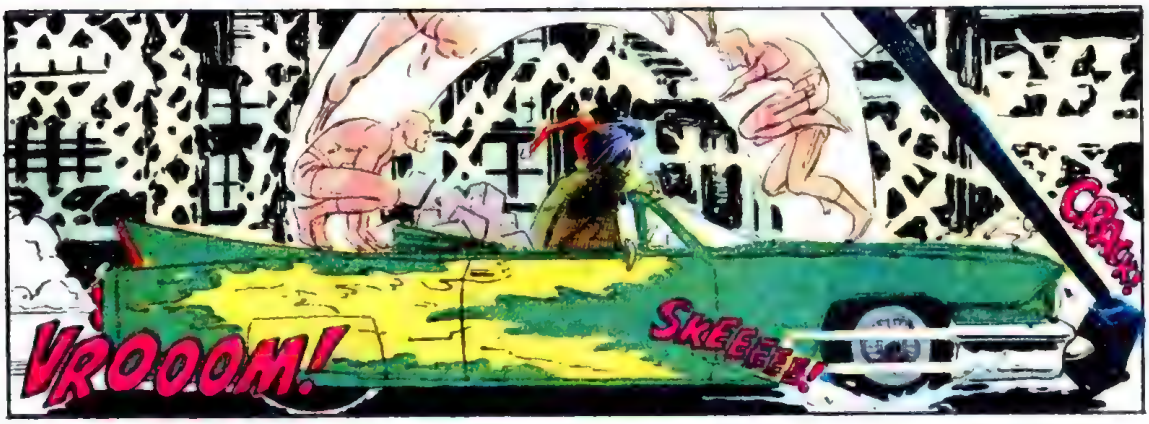


SK-KSH-KSS-KSSKSSSS-KKRSH!
FA LA LA, BABY!
YEEOOUCH! BLOODY CUTS, SPIT!
WARPAINT, MA'MAN!
LOOKIN' GOOD!

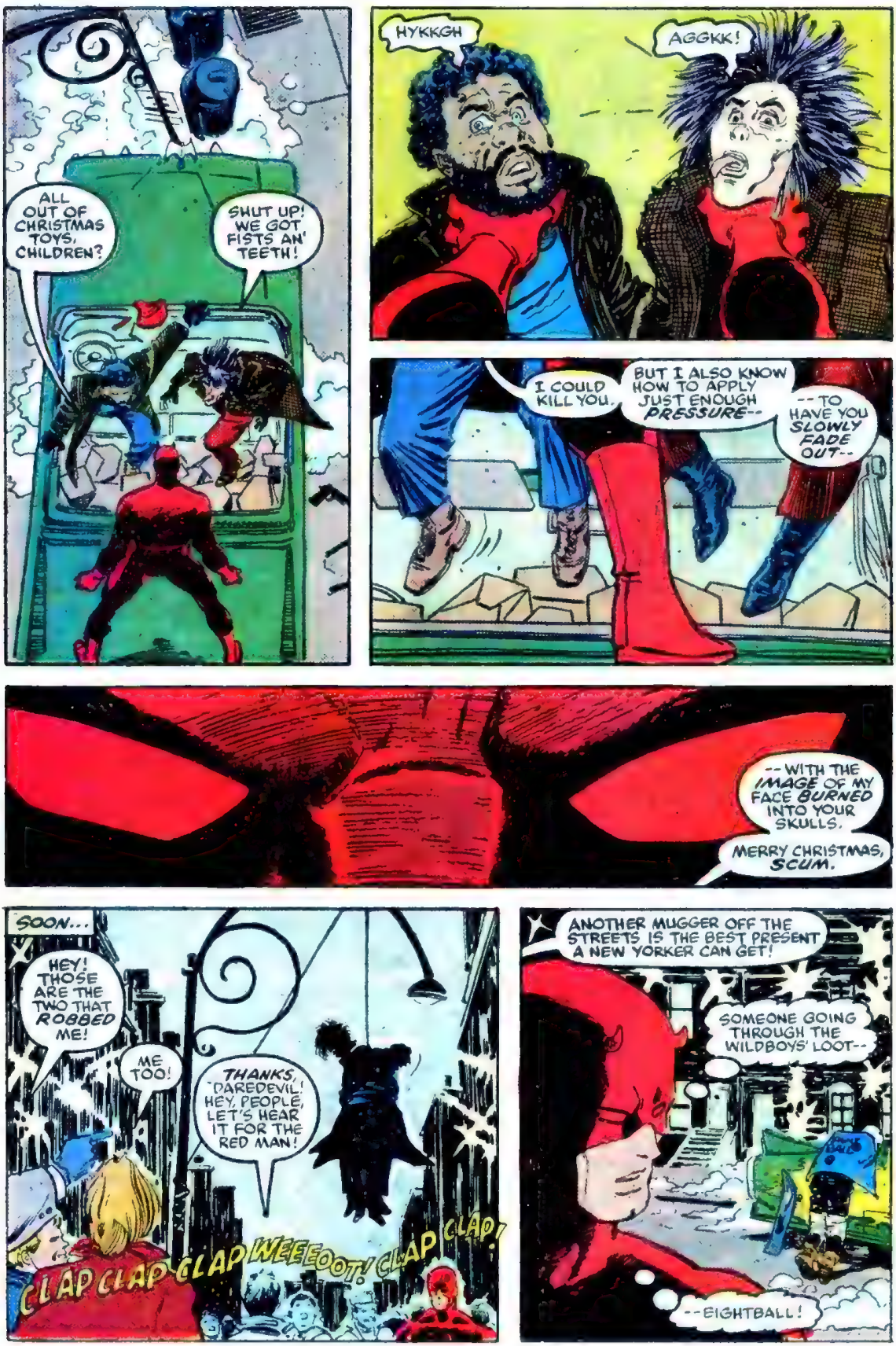
TRACKED THEM. SAME SIZE, SAME SCENTS, SAME VOICES, SAME SCUM.
TIME FOR THESE BAD LITTLE BOYS--
TO MEET HELL'S KITCHEN'S VERY OWN SANTA CLAUS.


JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, SPIT! NEVER ANY COPS AROUND ON HOLIDAYS!
HEY, DON'T I KNOW IT! BOMBIN' AWAY ON CHRISTMAS WON A LOT A' WARS!
WII
HAHAHAHA HA--


--HUH?!
GUN IT! KNOCK 'IM OFF!
KOMP!


VROOOM!
SKEEEEE!
CRAAK!

UH SPIT --HE'S KILLER!
SO WHAT?
STICK 'IM WITH EVERY-THING WE GOT--
--THEN WE USE HIS RED RAG TO WAX AN SHINE OUR CAR!
HYUK HYUK HYUK!
WACK!
KUNCH!
WOOOSH!
CLINK!
THUNK!
VOK!
WHOOSH!


ALL OUT OF CHRISTMAS TOYS, CHILDREN?
SHUT UP! WE GOT FISTS AN' TEETH!
HYKKGH
AGGKK!
I COULD KILL YOU.
BUT I ALSO KNOW HOW TO APPLY JUST ENOUGH PRESSURE--
--TO HAVE YOU SLOWLY FADE OUT--
--WITH THE IMAGE OF MY FACE BURNED INTO YOUR SKULLS.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, SCUM.
SOON...
HEY! THOSE ARE THE TWO THAT ROBBED ME!
ME TOO!
THANKS, DAREDEVIL! HEY, PEOPLE, LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE RED MAN!
CLAP CLAP CLAP WEEEOOT! CLAP CLAP!
ANOTHER MUGGER OFF THE STREETS IS THE BEST PRESENT A NEW YORKER CAN GET!
SOMEONE GOING THROUGH THE WILDBOYS' LOOT--
--EIGHTBALL!

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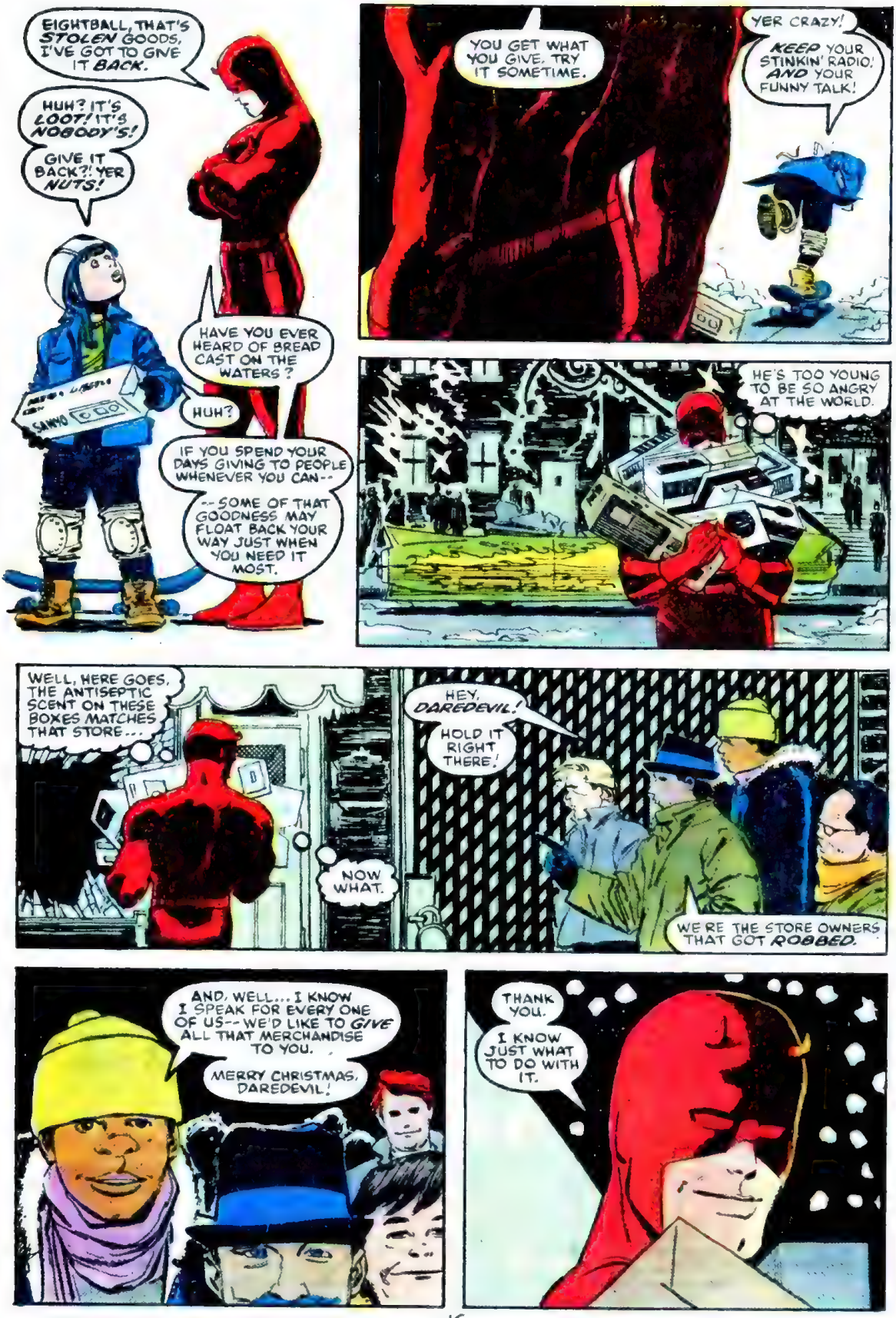
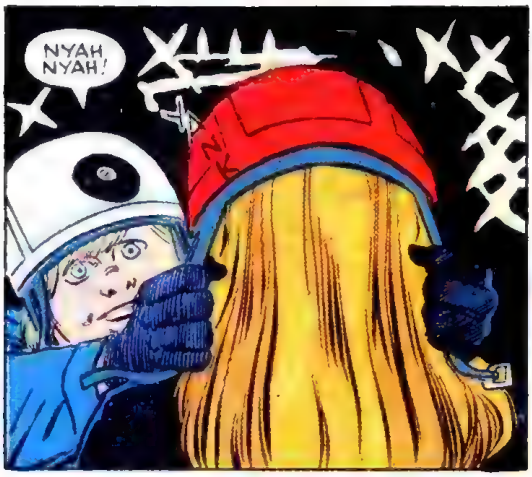

EIGHTBALL, THAT'S STOLEN GOODS, I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT BACK.
HUH? IT'S LOOT! IT'S NOBODY'S!
GIVE IT BACK?! YER NUTS!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF BREAD CAST ON THE WATERS?
HUH?
IF YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS GIVING TO PEOPLE WHENEVER YOU CAN--
--SOME OF THAT GOODNESS MAY FLOAT BACK YOUR WAY JUST WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST.
YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE. TRY IT SOMETIME.
YER CRAZY!
KEEP YOUR STINKIN' RADIO, AND YOUR FUNNY TALK!
HE'S TOO YOUNG TO BE SO ANGRY AT THE WORLD.
WELL, HERE GOES. THE ANTISEPTIC SCENT ON THESE BOXES MATCHES THAT STORE...
NOW WHAT.
HEY, DAREDEVIL!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
WE'RE THE STORE OWNERS THAT GOT ROBBED.
AND, WELL... I KNOW I SPEAK FOR EVERY ONE OF US--WE'D LIKE TO GIVE ALL THAT MERCHANDISE TO YOU.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, DAREDEVIL!
THANK YOU.
I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

M....A....S....
SSST!
DARN, MAN! I GOT THE GREATEST SKATEBOARD!
SSSST!
THE THRASHIN' BEST!
SSSSSST!
ATEBOARD SALE!
THAT ONE, WITH THE BIRD ON IT...
THE FLIPS I COULD DO ON THAT BABY! I'D LEAVE EIGHTBALL TO EAT MY DUST...!
BONK!
HI!
HEY YOUCH!
YOU PORKFACE! YOU'RE JUST PUKE, YOU KNOW THAT!?
WHAT'S WITH THE TEARS? YOU BEEN DROOLIN' AND CRYIN OVER THEM BOARDS?
I'M GONNA GET ONE. I'M GONNA STEAL ME ONE!
WATCH OUT. YOU GET WHAT YOU GIVE!
YOU STEAL, AN' SOMEBODY'LL PROBABLY DO YOU BAD RIGHT BACK SOMEDAY!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU TALKIN'...
DIRT ON YOUR FACE... LET ME...
OH... DIDN'T MEAN TO TOUCH...
EIGHTBALL... I'D LIKE...
YOU...
DARLA...?

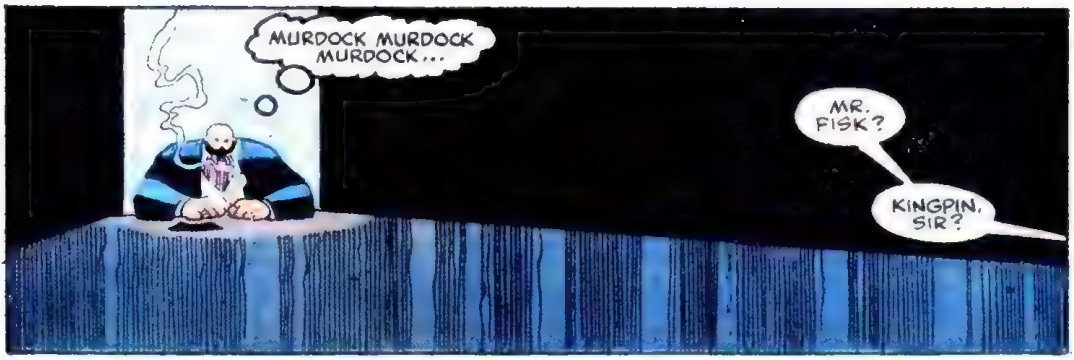

NYAH NYAH!

NO! STOP!
CLODFEET!
KICK!
CHOOSH

EIGHTBALL...! WHY DO YOU DO THAT!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO--
WHY DO YOU HATE ME--
HEY! YOU FORGOT YOUR BOARD!
NO I DIDN'T!

HUH?
X-Mas 2 Darla

FOR ME!
FOR ME! IT'S FOR ME!


MURDOCK MURDOCK MURDOCK...
MR. FISK?
KINGPIN, SIR?

WHERE IS EVERYONE?!
HOME WITH THEIR FAMILIES, SIR. IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE...
DON'T MENTION THAT WORD AGAIN! IT'S MEANINGLESS!
DID YOU PAY A VISIT TO THAT LOT OWNER?
YES. UHM... HE WON'T SELL. I DOUBLED OUR OFFER. I... PRESSURED HIM.
HE'S EVEN TALKED TO SOME OF THE OTHER LOT OWNERS, CONVINCED THEM NOT TO SELL.
SAID IF THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S SO UPSET, THEN PERHAPS IT'S JUST NOT A GOOD THING TO DO.
BUT WE OFFERED A FORTUNE!
HE WAS READY TO SIGN!
DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER. CHANGED HIS MIND TONIGHT.
WHY?! WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?
WELL, THE GUY COULDN'T BELIEVE WE WERE HASSLING HIM TONIGHT OF ALL NIGHTS.
WAM!
HE WAS WITH HIS FAMILY. HE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.
THIS DAY DOES THAT TO PEOPLE...
WHAT DAY?
THE DAY YOU TOLD ME NOT TO MENTION--
GET OUT!
ZZZZZIP!
WAM!
MURDOCK MURDOCK MURDOCK MURDOCK MURDOCK

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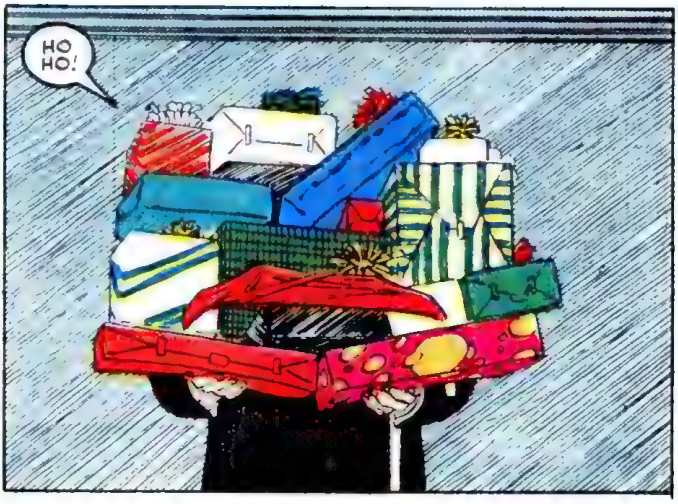
HOHOHOHOHOHO
MERRY
XMAS
OH, I NEVER ATE SO MUCH!
HEY BABY, WHERE ARE YOU?
I GOTTA HUG YOU, NOW!
COME OUT BACK! I SLIPPED SOME BEER INTO A COKE CAN!
YOU TOO! MERRY MERRY, FA LA URP!
WHERE'S MATT?! I JUST CAN'T MUSTER UP ANY CHEER WITH HIM MISSING THE PARTY!

WHERE IS HE?
CLUNK!
BANG!
Creeak


HO HO!

HO HO HO
BONK shuffle
OOP! WHA? HEY!
WHAT A KLUTZ!

HO HO HO!
IT'S SANTA!

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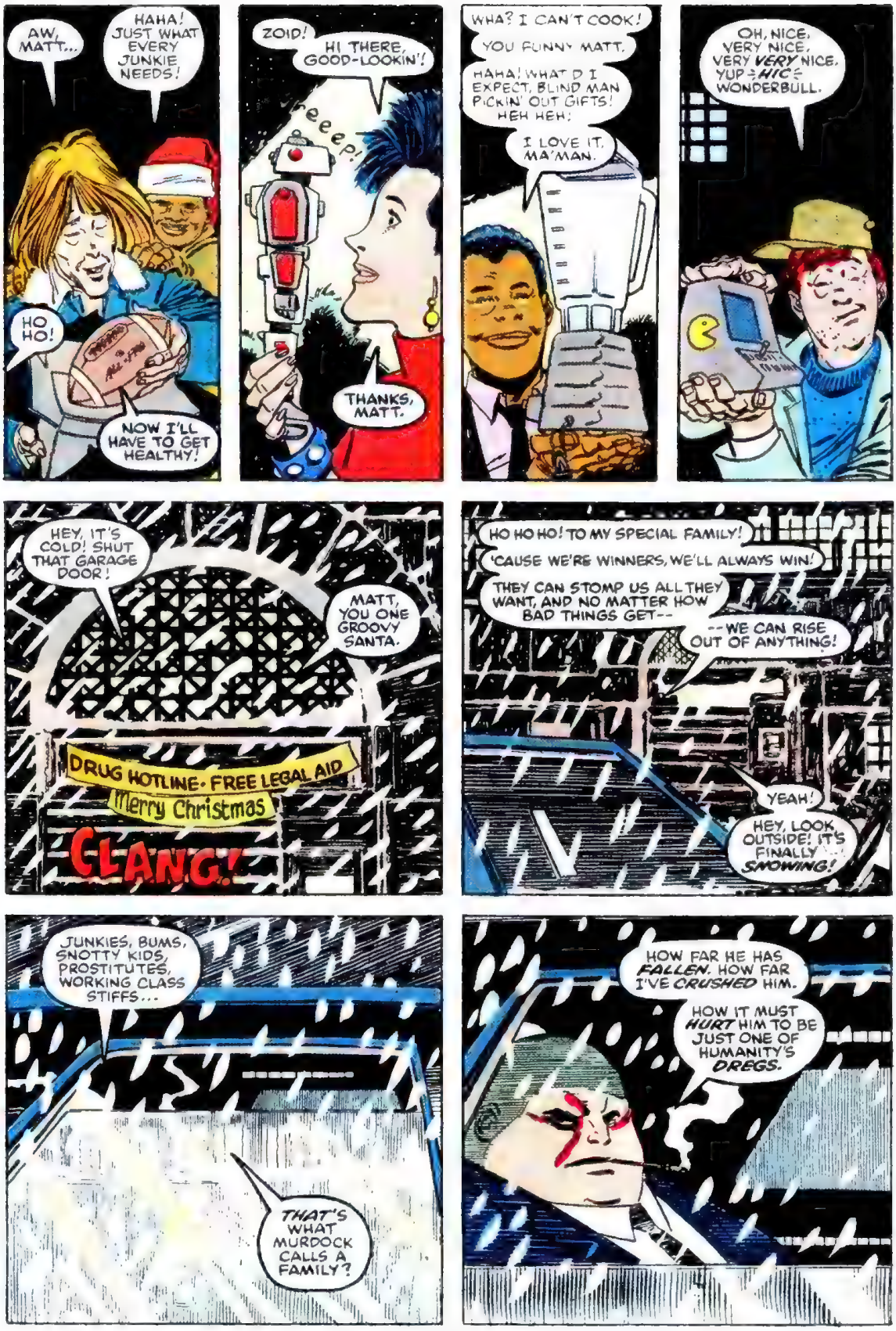
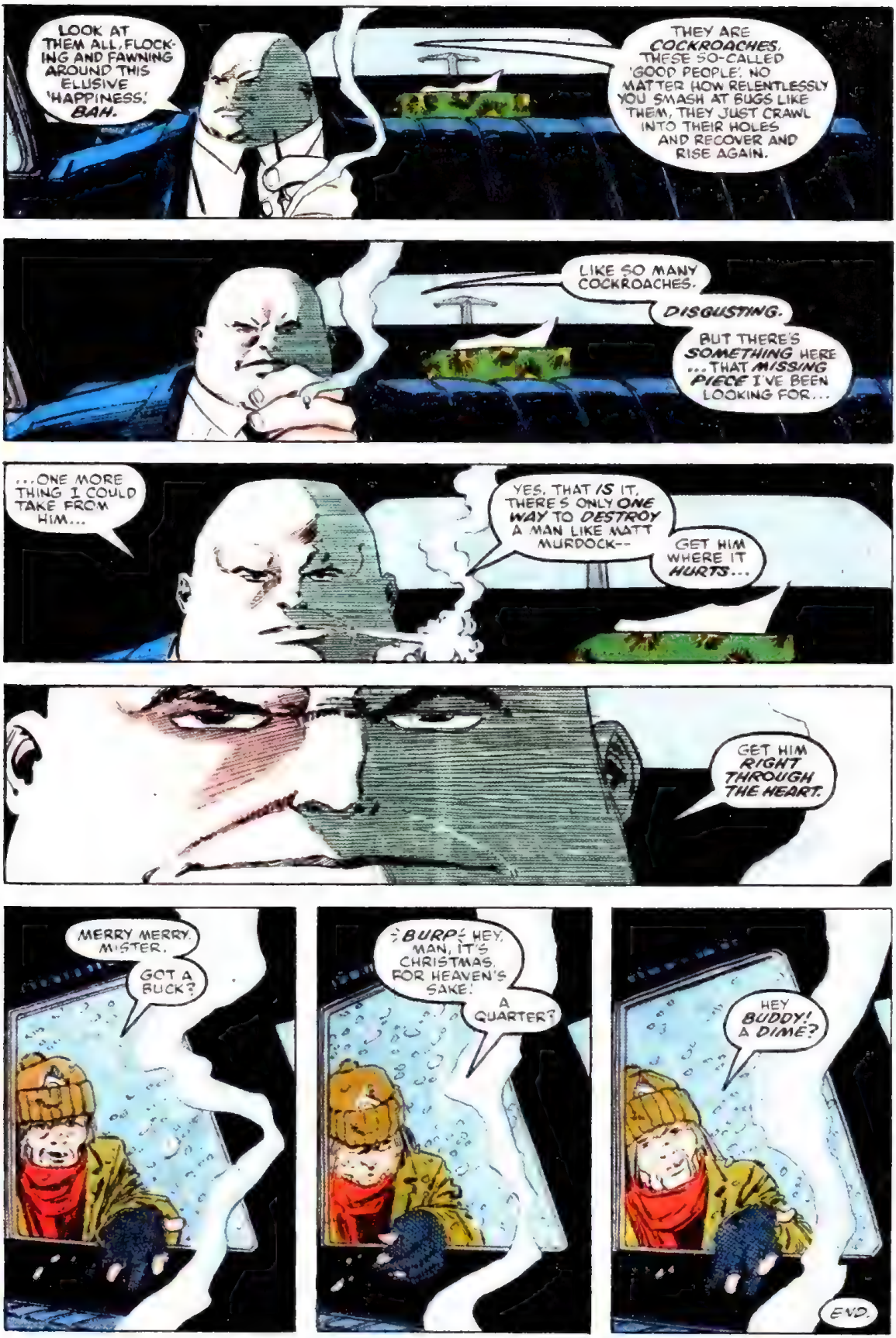

AW, MATT...
HAHA! JUST WHAT EVERY JUNKIE NEEDS!
HO HO!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO GET HEALTHY!
ZOID!
HI THERE, GOOD-LOOKIN'!
reeep!
THANKS, MATT.
WHA? I CAN'T COOK!
YOU FUNNY MATT.
HAHA! WHAT D I EXPECT, BLIND MAN PICKIN' OUT GIFTS! HEH HEH!
I LOVE IT, MA'MAN.
OH, NICE. VERY NICE. VERY VERY NICE. YUP = NIC = WONDERBULL.
HEY, IT'S COLD! SHUT THAT GARAGE DOOR!
MATT, YOU ONE GROOVY SANTA.
DRUG HOTLINE · FREE LEGAL AID
Merry Christmas
CLANG!
HO HO HO! TO MY SPECIAL FAMILY!
'CAUSE WE'RE WINNERS, WE'LL ALWAYS WIN!
THEY CAN STOMP US ALL THEY WANT, AND NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET--
--WE CAN RISE OUT OF ANYTHING!
YEAH!
HEY, LOOK OUTSIDE! IT'S FINALLY SNOWING!
JUNKIES, BUMS, SNOTTY KIDS, PROSTITUTES, WORKING CLASS STIFFS...
THAT'S WHAT MURDOCK CALLS A FAMILY?
HOW FAR HE HAS FALLEN. HOW FAR I'VE CRUSHED HIM.
HOW IT MUST HURT HIM TO BE JUST ONE OF HUMANITY'S DREGS.


LOOK AT THEM ALL, FLOCKING AND FAWNING AROUND THIS ELUSIVE 'HAPPINESS.' BAH.
THEY ARE COCKROACHES. THESE SO-CALLED 'GOOD PEOPLE.' NO MATTER HOW RELENTLESSLY YOU SMASH AT BUGS LIKE THEM, THEY JUST CRAWL INTO THEIR HOLES AND RECOVER AND RISE AGAIN.
LIKE SO MANY COCKROACHES.
DISGUSTING.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING HERE ...THAT MISSING PIECE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...
...ONE MORE THING I COULD TAKE FROM HIM...
YES, THAT IS IT. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DESTROY A MAN LIKE MATT MURDOCK--
GET HIM WHERE IT HURTS...
GET HIM RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART.
MERRY MERRY, MISTER.
GOT A BUCK?
BURP! HEY, MAN, IT'S CHRISTMAS, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!
A QUARTER?
HEY BUDDY! A DIME?
END.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: editor—MARC SIRY: assistant editor

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Dear Ann, Rick, Al, Joe, Petra, Ralph, Marc, and Tom,

Seventy-five cents. Some people may complain about the price of a comic book. Not me. I would have paid seventy-five cents for the splash page alone of DAREDEVIL #248!

After reading in MARVEL AGE that Rick Leonardi was going to be the regular artist on DAREDEVIL, I anxiously awaited July 10th (the on sale date). I knew that due to Ann's writing, Rick's pencils, and the rest of the creative team the issue would be at the very least, fantastic. I was not disappointed.

Little things are what help to make a comic book so special. The skateboard race between the guy in the red suit (not Santa Claus) and the Fatboys, the MARVEL COMICS sticker on the bottom of Eightball's skateboard, the discussion with the horse and buggy man, all help to add a sense of life to the pages. It makes you forget that you are reading a work of fiction, and that if you step outside, Daredevil will swing over your head, blowing a few hairs out of place.

Hornhead's eventual realization that D.D. needs Matt Murdock (D.D.'s true I.D.) and vice-versa will be painful for him at times; but this way he has a chance to fight battles that he cannot fight as Daredevil. I wholeheartedly approve of the "ghost lawyer" set-up. Will Matt ever become a full fledged lawyer again?

Hopefully Ann, Rick and the rest of the crew will set a record for most consecutive issues by the same creative team. So till Matt Murdock gets a seeing-eye-dog, Make Mine Marvel!

Ken Fries
146-23 22 Ave
Whitestone, NY 11357

P.S. Congratulations to Max Scheele on her wedding!

We'll pass your congratulations along to Max (also known as Christie)! So tell us, Ken, what do you have against seeing-eye dogs? Did one eat your homework or something? Will Matt ever become a lawyer again? Good question. We can't give you an answer at this time, but it is an outstanding question. Keep reading.

We do have a bit of sad news, though. Rick was *not* the new regular penciler — as you can see, he has moved on to other projects. However, all is not lost, as you can see by the fine work by John Romita Jr. in this issue, and in every issue to come — *he's* the new regular penciler on the book. We expect to see your raves arrive in the mailbox any day now!

Dear Marvel,

I was planning to stop buying DAREDEVIL. I wasn't enjoying it much anymore. It was literate, but it was drab, dismal, depressing, and unexciting. Karen wasn't much of a character . . . and neither was the ex-lawyer, Matt Murdock, who worried too much and seemed to have instantly lost his newfound sense of self and purpose. Most of the feelings in the comic were cold ones. So was my reaction.

It seemed worth trying issue #248, if for nothing else than the Leonardi art (always a pleasure). Give it one last chance, I told myself. After all, this was Matt Murdock, Daredevil, once the best character in comics.

And you know . . . I liked it.

There was some sense of purpose in it, some positive action. We at last were shown the attitude of Matt towards his city and his place in it now. Karen showed some initiative — though I find it a little surprising that she could have made all those arrangements without Matt's knowledge — or that she would. (These two *are* living together, aren't they?)

I was delighted to see Glorianna and Foggy again. And the Kingpin. And danger on all horizons. I hope Foggy does something himself, to discover and deal with the situation he is in, since I hate seeing Foggy as a buffoon and a fool. He is better than that.

Let me caution also against having Daredevil seem stupid. He is not. And yet, he has lived with blindness long enough, and with the task of dealing with the implications of a dual identity, that his story would have been airtight before he ever went to the police. As for telling the robot he was a blind man — could he know the robot was not able to transmit or record his voice?

All these complaints aside, I loved the scene with the kids, and the thoroughly scary Wacker, and the surprising ending when his wife turns to Murdock.

Let's not have too much of Daredevil fighting against Wolverine. Those two would be marvelously complementary side by side, better than the often-seen Daredevil and Spider-Man as a team.

Thank you for catching my attention again.

Elizabeth Holden
No address

Glad we caught your attention, Elizabeth. Your letter caught ours, so we printed it!

Dear Marvel,

Finally we are seeing the return of the openly-blind Matt Murdock, and possibly the return of the lawyer. I really don't know if this change (if it actually happens) makes me happy or not. I can certainly see Matt's point-of-view (no pun intended). If I was blind, it would drive me insane to be treated like a helpless invalid. And that is exactly what Matt went through on page 20 of DAREDEVIL #248.

I liked Matt as a lawyer, but didn't the state take away his license to practice law? Didn't he want to put the lawyer part of his life behind him? I think in this issue he appreciated just how much of his being a lawyer helped him as Daredevil.

As for the appearance of Wolverine in this issue and unquestioningly next issue, I am enjoying seeing him as he and D.D. sort of share that same aura around them of "Meanness."

I am very glad you are now involving Foggy Nelson in the subplot. As you know from previous letters, I was wondering where he was, and wanted you to use him. As far as Foggy knows, everything is just fine. He wouldn't feel so relaxed if he knew that his law firm was involved with the Kingpin of Crime. Since Kingpin doesn't get a lot of appearances, I'm glad you are using him. Say, why don't you give the Kingpin a mini-series or a one shot? I personally think the Punisher would make a good villain. How about it, Ann?

Thank you for the excellent issue. Keep up the MARVELous work!

Bill Climer
3330 Richwood-La Rue Rd
La Rue, Ohio 43332

Hey, Bill, last time we looked the Punisher was a good guy. A bit on the extreme side, but a good guy. Kingpin The Mini-Series? Hmmmm. Until that happens, check out the DAREDEVIL graphic novel, "LOVE AND WAR" by Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz. The Kingpin has a major part in it!

Dear D.D. Folks,

"Kiss and Kill!" (D.D. #249) was an amazing issue. The cover and the inside artwork were fantastic. Ann Nocenti's stories just keep getting better and better. This one was very disturbing. Bushwacker is one weird character. The way he kills off mutants is grotesque. The way he hung that dancer in a mid-leap dance pose, shows what a sick puppy he is. He needs medical help and fast!

Thanks to the whole DAREDEVIL team for making this issue so great. Keep the DARE in Daredevil.

Robert "Z" Apro
85 Cairns Dr.
Markham, Ontario
L3P 6H9, Canada

So what does the "Z" stand for, Robert? Yes, Bushwacker *is* weird and sick. What do you expect when a weird, sick, uptight suburbanite like Ralph Macchio is the editor?

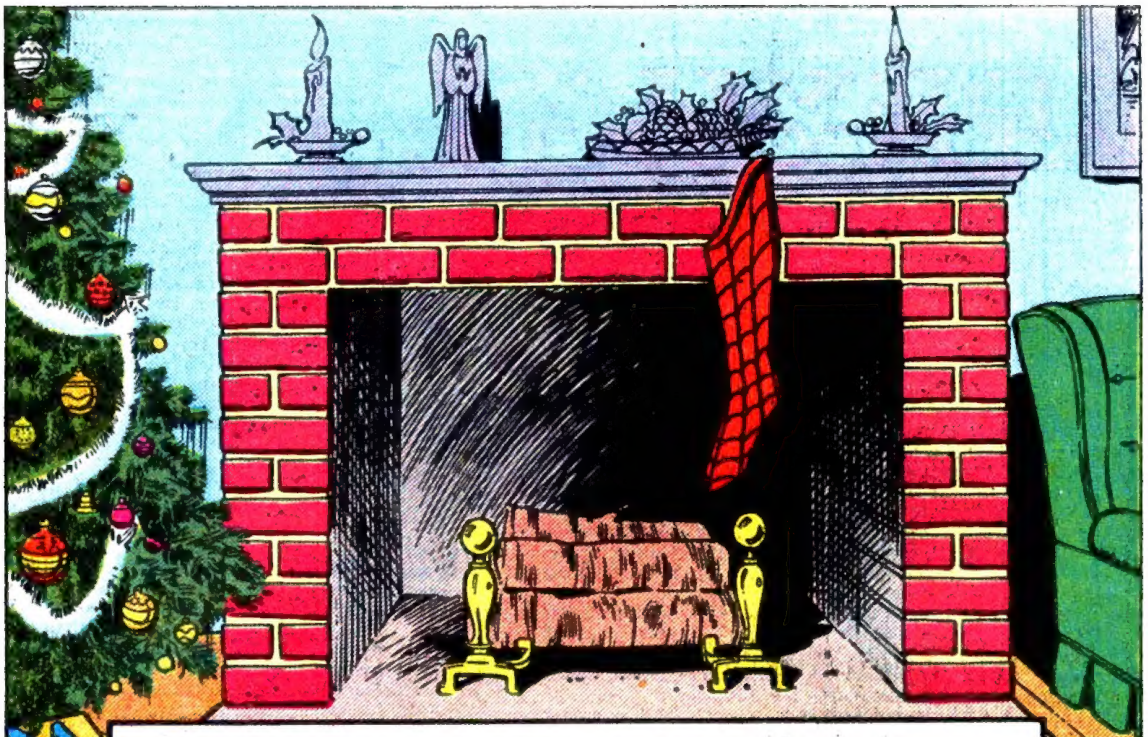
—Marc

WAIT JUST A MINUTE! AS THE EDITOR HERE, I *DEMAND* THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT BE *IMMEDIATELY* RETRACTED! IT IS ABSOLUTELY *UNTRUE* AND UNFAIR! HOW DARE YOU INSINUATE THAT I, RALPH MACCHIO, AM A *SUBURBANITE?!?*

I HOPE THAT STRAIGHTENED THINGS OUT. HMMPH.

—RM

Next issue: Daredevil's newest — and most insidious — nemesis hits the streets of New York! Be here when TYPHOID MARY sizzles her way into DD's life! Of course, nothing happens in New York City without the KINGPIN's knowing! What part will he play in our story? Find out in DAREDEVIL #254 — on sale in thirty days!



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BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Happy Holidays, you guys!"

—THE MARVEL BULLPEN

ITEM: After a half year in the nine-to-five grind as head of our peerless Production Department, Jumbo *Jim Novak* (once our most popular letterer) has heard the scritching of penpoints and the bubbling of inkpots and has decided to pack up his desk and hit the freelance lettering road again. So good luck, Jim — this loss is Marvel's calligraphic gain!

ITEM: Stepping into the breach Jim left will be none other than Virtuous *Virginia Romita*, who is currently the Traffic Manager for the entire Marvel line. She's the one who keeps track of schedules and lets editors know when the Dreaded Deadline Doom is looming. Vee-Ay has decided not to give up her Trafficking job either — she intends to manage both Traffic *and* Production! (Whew! It's a big job, but she is a tough lady!)

ITEM: Wait — there's still more people exchanging hats! Erudite *Adam Blaustein*, assistant editor in the Special Projects department, has accepted a promotion out of the Editorial rank and file. Adam's now going to be a production man — specifically, our liaison with Chemical Color, the fine people who do the color separations for our comic books. Good luck to you in your new position, Adam!

ITEM: And, finally, taking Adam's place in our star-studded editorial line-up is Diligent *David Wohl*. David's been an editorial assistant on the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE for most of its run and also did a summer stint as Star Editor *Don Daley's* assistant. Dave and his comrade-in-arms, *Marc Siry* (who is now assisting Reliable *Ralph Macchio*), are proud graduates of Marvel's high school editorial intern program, and both are currently attending college after work. (Satisfied, Marc? We finally found a way to mention you on this page!)

ITEM: If we seem a bit more harried this time than usual, here's why . . . it's MIGHTY MARVEL MOVING MADNESS WEEK, wherein a record-breaking *seven* editorial teams played musical offices! First, Administrative Manager *Lynn Cohen* moved from the office outside Editor in Chief *Tom DeFalco's* designer digs to the duplex desk ten feet outside. Then, Exec Editor *Mark Gruenwald* moved his worldly goods into Lynn's vacated space. Next, Craig Anderson cleared out the office across the hall from Tom's so Mark's assistant editor, *Gregory Wright*, could take possession. Then the editorial team of *Bob Harras* and *Bobbie Chase* packed their desks and settled into Mark's and Greg's former fortress. That left Bob and Bobbie's creative crawlspace open for *Craig Anderson* and *David Wohl*. Got all that so far? Good, 'cause we're only halfway done. Then, *Michael Higgins*, *Mike Rockwitz*, and *Pat Redding* gathered up their bounteous belongings, and the two Mikes moved into departing Production Manager *Jim Novak's* airy abode, while Pat got a sunless, but single, office to herself. That enabled Special Projects Editor *Bob Budiansky* and his right hand man *Dwayne McDuffie* to headquarter themselves in the former Mikes' and Pat's office. Then, finally, the editorial team of *Ann Nocenti* and *Terry Kavanagh* (who for the whole summer have been exiled to another floor, because we were short on suitable office space) moved into Bob and Dwayne's coveted corner office. At last, the moving's done, the dust has settled, and Marvel's mighty editorial staff is all on one floor again! Hats off to Office Manager *Susie Ehrenreich* (who's never been mentioned in this space before — hi, Suze!) for coordinating the whole shebang. (Now, if we could only remember where we accidentally moved all of our artwork, we could publish a few comic books!)

PRO FILE: BOB HARRAS

Editor on: *X-FACTOR, INCREDIBLE HULK, G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, G.I. JOE DIGEST, SPELLBOUND, INHUMANS GRAPHIC NOVEL*

Marvel freelance credits (past): *Issues of IRON MAN, THOR, AVENGERS, THING and ROBOCOP movie adaptation*

Marvel freelance credits (present): *The upcoming S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series*

My hobbies are: Spelunking, hang-gliding, diving off the cliffs of Acapulco, mountain-climbing in the Himalayas and (according to Joanne Spaldo) breaking hearts.

The single work which I am most proud of is: *THOR #356 and a parody of ROM I wrote and drew in ROM #50.*

My pet peeves are: *Munchkins, especially those who belong to the Lollipop Guild.*

My place of birth is: *Queens, New York*

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: *Developing an extensive collection of knitted ties (which is the envy of Archie Goodwin) and the uncanny ability to lie with the best of them.*

My oddest habit is: *Sitting in such strange positions that people wonder if I have a spine.*

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: *Al Pacino.*

The reason I got into comics was: *I didn't want to grow up (and I've succeeded — ask anyone who knows me).*

People who knew me in High School thought I was: *Sardonic.*

My favorite performers are: *Bruce Springsteen and Mark Gruenwald (whose portrayal of Mr. Mature in episode #7 of "Cheap Laffs" is incomparable).*

The last good book I read was: *WAITING FOR CHILDHOOD by Sumner Locke Eliott*

The last good movie I saw was: *FATAL ATTRACTION*

The biggest influences on my work include: *Ralph Macchio, Jim and Tammy Bakker, the other Ralph Macchio, Joe Biden, Jane Austen, Donald Trump and, of course, the obligatory William Shakespeare.*

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: *To get my freelance work in on time.*

The worst part of my job is: *Listening to Chris Claremont read his fan mail out loud (and I'm not even his editor!).*

When nobody's looking I like to: *Look at myself.*

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: *I never wear bow ties (despite what Ralph Macchio says).*

✓ Checklist

- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #253**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #373**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #31**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #10**
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #17**
- ☐ **SPELLBOUND Limited Series #6**
- ☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE #4**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #340**
- ☐ **SOLO AVENGERS #5**
- ☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299**
- ☐ **STRANGE TALES #13**
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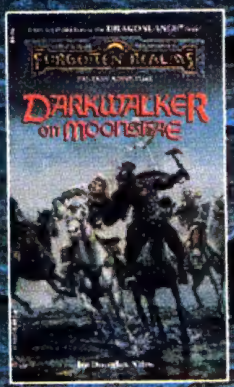

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